GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:373
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2011
ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE
Shetkar Shri Suresh Kumar

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to make environmental and forest clearance process more transparent in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to put the status of each project received for environmental clearance on the respective websites;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to make the environmental clearance process more transparent?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 373 REGARDING "ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE" ASKED BY SHRI SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR DUE FOR ANSWER ON 29.08.2011.

(a) & (b): Ministry of Environment & Forests implements an effective and transparent regulatory regime of granting environmental and forestry clearances in terms of the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 respectively. The procedural aspects relating to the environmental clearance have been improved upon through administrative circulars and guidelines which were put on the website of the Ministry for the information and compliance of all concerned with the aim to make the system more transparent. The Government plans to make the forest clearance process more transparent through various actions inter-alia;
(i) creation and regular updation of a GIS based decision support data base,
(ii) constitution of Regional Empowered Committees to facilitate detailed scrutiny of proposals involving diversion of forestland,
(iii) preparation of comprehensive policy for inspection, verification and monitoring and
(iv) uploading all forest clearances on the website.

(c) & (d): The status of projects received for environmental clearance is updated regularly on the website of the Ministry. Sector-wise schedule of meetings of Expert Appraisal Committees (EACs) as also their agenda and minutes are displayed on the website.

(e) In addition to the information stated in para (c) and (d) above, the project proponent are also required to upload the status of compliance of the stipulated environment clearance conditions including results of monitored data on their respective website and update these periodically.